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AKTIVITÄT

KRAFTWERK FANZINE

This document contains the scanned pages of one of the Kraftwerk Aktivität Fanzines or complimentary publications that were produced from 1992 through to 1998.

During this time 10 Fanzines were published along with various update issues and other complimentary publications.

The scans have only been altered for clarity, with the exception of addresses and phone numbers that have now been blocked out. So please note that all errors and miss-information are as they appeared at the time of publication. Later issues tried to address the earlier problems as the production team put more stringent editorial practices in place.

Greetings,

Aktivität Update sheet no. 4 as part of your subscription. If you're wondering what has happened to issue 9 of the fanzine, fear not, it will appear in good time, in the meantime there is this news, pretty much a 'Tribal Gathering' special, which is in urgent need of being shared...

TOPICS AT A GLANCE;

- 'NEW' RELEASES?
- TRIBAL GATHERING 1997 - MORE INFO
- TRANCEWERK EXPRESS VOL. 2 RELEASED
- I SAW THEM ON THE COVER OF A MAGAZINE...
- 'KOMPUTER' LP RELEASE PLANNED

'TRIBAL GATHERING' - MORE INFO...

The big news is of course Kraftwerk's return to action, with the confirmation of their upcoming live appearance at the Tribal Gathering event in England. This was officially announced on February 7 this year, though had been rumoured for some months beforehand. This report from the Melody Maker, 15 February, gives the details of what to expect...

'KRAFTWERK have been confirmed to headline this year's Tribal Gathering... Organisers believe that the band's presence will attract various legendary Detroit house musicians who have been influenced by Kraftwerk, and the festival will dedicate a tent to the genre. Tribal Gathering runs from midday on May 24th to 8.30am on May 25 at the Luton Hoo estate, the site it established last year. Other acts confirmed for the event include Orbital, Daft Punk and DJ Shadow. Tickets are £35 from the usual outlets or by credit card through 0171-344 0044 or 0541-500044.

Tribal Gathering promoter Paul Shurey of Universe said: 'After two years of trying and a long haul, we've succeeded in persuading Kraftwerk to come out of retirement and play their first live show in years. The significance of this is that a lot of the techno house pioneers from America all cite Kraftwerk as their primary musical influence and Ian Jenkinson, my partner, is currently in Detroit persuading a lot of the original techno legends to come out of retirements. We feel confident that they will, now that we know Kraftwerk are playing'.

Kraftwerk will be playing in their own tent which we're calling the Trans Atlantic tent. We're going to rebuild their entire German studio on stage, which will be a technical nightmare. After they've played, we will be having some massive American DJs, including Marshal Jefferson and Deep Dish from Florida.'

First of all, some handy hints if you are thinking of buying a ticket... avoid the credit card booking method, unless the idea of additional £5 'booking fee' and a £1-odd 'administration charge' appeal to you... talk about daylight robbery. A better bet is to apply via post. The tickets are £35, you should enclose a SAE and make your cheque payable to 'Too Tribes Ltd', and send to; Universe, Tribal Gathering '97, PO Box 1707, London, NW10 4LW. There is also a festival information line, on 0181 963 0940.

Some of the reports claim that Kraftwerk are coming out of retirement for this show and that it is their first live appearance in 10 years. Nonsense, of course. It is their first live show since July 1993, the 'Ars Electronica' show in Austria. And whether Kraftwerk have been in retirement is a debatable matter, one could as easily argue that they had been in retirement from 1987-1991 too!

The April issue of 'Muzik' magazine also contains this;

Commenting on Kraftwerk's headline slot at the event, meanwhile, Universe's Ian Jenkinson said 'We've had a phenomenal response to the news, the band are excited as well and it takes a lot to get them excited. It's going to be a landmark show and I doubt that they'll be doing another one in the next five years.'

However, the good news is that the promoters have been granted a licence for the event, so it should all go ahead as planned now, barring any disasters. Incidentally, I've heard that Ralf Hütter was in fact on a short trip to England in March to visit the Luton Hoo site for himself...

So, what are we to expect of this live appearance then? A new album to coincide? New songs? Who knows... no clues just yet I'm afraid. Speculation about the release of a new album of new songs has of course been prevalent. Naturally. EMI-Electrola in Germany even printed an advert in the music media, amongst which was indication that a Kraftwerk album was imminent. This has since been refuted. However, to confuse matters further, the German WWW pages of EMI-Electrola, Kraftwerk's record company, lists a June release for a forthcoming Kraftwerk album.

On the grapevine, there has been talk of the fact that a small number of songs from Kraftwerk's live set will be broadcast by Radio 1, who will be covering the event. Don't expect the whole Kraftwerk show to be broadcast, only a small portion seems likely. Also on the grapevine, no press interviews are planned by Kraftwerk to coincide with the event; this doesn't bode well for the likelihood of a new album release at all; if you want to draw parallels, think back to the 'Stop Sellafeld' show of 1992 -- Kraftwerk came over to England for that show, but gave no interviews nor entertained media coverage. So, the question is, will this show be akin to the bands 1992/1993 excursions; one-offs, with little media coverage and no new releases to tie-in with? Seems a possibility...

For the benefit of anyone still wondering whether or not to attend the event and weighing up all the practicalities about the travel involved, here is some of the info regarding getting to the event that accompanied the ticket I recently received;

Directions to Luton Hoo;

By CAR; From M1 - Junction 10 to Luton, at first roundabout take the A1081; follow signs for Tribal Gathering 97. DO NOT follow signs for Luton Hoo as the gate entry these signs take you to will be closed. There is no predestrian access to the event. Police will remove any cars parked illegally outside the estate.

By TRAIN; Go to Harpenden Train Station, NOT LUTON. A shuttle Bus Service will operate between Harpenden Train Station and Luton Hoo and will operate return services on the Sunday morning.

By COACH; National Express are operating direct and fast entry coach services from various parts of the country - call 0990 80 80 80 for details.

It's also been mentioned that this will be Kraftwerk's final live appearance for some number of years. If this is in fact true, then if there is in fact no new release to tie-in with the date, one must begin to wonder if there will really ever be more produkt from Kling Klang..

'NEW' RELEASES ?

I have heard that Parlophone/EMI will issue four DJ-only promo 12" singles on April 28; 'Home Computer', 'Music Non Stop', 'Trans-Europe Express', 'Numbers'. I do not know whether they are one-sided pressings or whether there will be other track(s) on the B sides. Also, there are no details as to which mixes of the tracks they are, be they new or old. But watch out about then anyway for signs of these, though this is definitely in 'rumour' territory...

Furthermore, on the 2nd June, 2xCD sets of the following albums are also rumoured to be released; 'The Man Machine', 'Trans-Europe Express', 'Radio-Activity'. Quite what form this shall take is ponderable; it's puzzling as to why there may be two discs. A possibility; EMI have in recent times released two x CD sets of various albums (by The Stranglers, for example) where the normal album is contained on one CD while the bonus CD contains rare B sides and the like, from the same era. It could be that is what these CDs will be like - with 'Les Mannequins' and 7" edits on the 'TEE' bonus disc, for example. But that's just my speculation. There really isn't a lot of extra B sides on the go. Perhaps the second discs may include remixes? We'll have to wait and see, as ever.

'I SAW THEM ON THE COVER OF A MAGAZINE...

Look out for the current (April 1997) issue of 'Mojo' music magazine in the UK, a 'Krautrock special', it does of course feature Kraftwerk extensively. Ye Gods! they are even featured on the front cover! Also one to look out for, though it's not out yet, the May edition of 'Vox' will also include a Kraftwerk feature. Finally on the media watch, the February 26th edition of 'The Guardian' also contained a two page spread on Kraftwerk, with some nice photos to boot.

Also, the April issue of the music technology magazine 'Sound On Sound' reveals this little titbit...

"... Kraftwerk... were spotted on the Quasimidi stand at the recent Frankfurt Musik Messe... They have been Quasimidi users for several years, and played mixes from what should be their next album - and that's all-new material rather than remixes".

TRANCEWERK EXPRESS VOLUME 2 RELEASED

To follow on from volume 1's 1995 release, the US Hypnotic/Cleopatra records label have recently issued 'Trancewerk Express' Volume 2, a second instalment of Kraftwerk cover versions in a techno style. Not come by a copy as yet, but can reveal the track listing as thus;

'Intro' - Martin O, 'Airwaves' - Martin O, 'Ruckzuck' - Robotron, 'Man Machine' - Zero Gravity, 'Sex Object' - O T Zehn, 'Tour de France' - Interfaith, 'Numbers' - Pygmy Taxi Corp, 'Pocket Calculator' - Voight Kampff, 'Kometenmelodie' - O T Zehn, "Exit" not listed on cover and not a genuine KW cover song.

'KOMPUTER' LP RELEASE PLANNED

Finally, Mute records WWW pages list that Komputer have completed work on their debut LP. If the two Komputer releases thus far are anything to go by then we can expect further Kraftwerk-influenced material to appear on the album.

Summarised by Ian Calder, April 1997.

